The Academic Word List

The Academic Word List (AWL) was released in the year 2000 by Averil Coxhead from the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The list contains 570 word families which were selected by analysing a corpus of millions of words from over 400 academic texts . Words were taken from 28 different academic subject areas within the disciplines of Arts, Commerce, Law and Science, so they are relevant for all areas of academic study. The list of 570 words was then divided into ten sublists, with the most frequent 60 words in Sublist 1, to the least frequent words in Sublist 10. The list excludes the most frequent 2000 words of English.

The AWL was developed to provide learners of academic English to target their vocabulary development for all academic disciplines. It was primarily made so that it could be used by teachers as part of a program preparing learners for tertiary level study or used by students working alone to learn the words most needed to study at tertiary institutions. The complete list (below) has the headwords (the most common form of the word family) for all 570 words, and includes the sublist (1-10) that it comes from.

We have provided you with handouts which contain exercises based on each of the ten sublists. They have been designed to help you develop your vocabulary of these words.

For detail on the development and evaluation of the AWL, see Coxhead, Averil (2000) A New Academic Word List. TESOL Quarterly, 34(2): 213-238.

abandon	**8**	**abstract**	**6**	**academy**	**5**
access	**4**	**accommodate**	**9**	**accompany**	**8**
accumulate	**8**	**accurate**	**6**	**achieve**	**2**
acknowledge	**6**	**acquire**	**2**	**adapt**	**7**
adequate	**4**	**adjacent**	**10**	**adjust**	**5**
administrate	**2**	**adult**	**7**	**advocate**	**7**
affect	**2**	**aggregate**	**6**	**aid**	**7**
albeit	**10**	**allocate**	**6**	**alter**	**5**
alternative	**3**	**ambiguous**	**8**	**amend**	**5**
analogy	**9**	**analyse**	**1**	**annual**	**4**
anticipate	**9**	**apparent**	**4**	**append**	**8**
appreciate	**8**	**approach**	**1**	**appropriate**	**2**
approximate	**4**	**arbitrary**	**8**	**area**	**1**

aspect	2	assemble	10	assess	1
assign	6	assist	2	assume	1
assure	9	attach	6	attain	9
attitude	4	attribute	4	author	6
authority	1	automate	8	available	1
aware	5	behalf	9	benefit	1
bias	8	bond	6	brief	6
bulk	9	capable	6	capacity	5
category	2	cease	9	challenge	5
channel	7	chapter	2	chart	8
chemical	7	circumstance	3	cite	6
civil	4	clarify	8	classic	7
clause	5	code	4	coherent	9
coincide	9	collapse	10	colleague	10
commence	9	comment	3	commission	2
commit	4	commodity	8	communicate	4
community	2	compatible	9	compensate	3
compile	10	complement	8	complex	2
component	3	compound	5	comprehensive	7
comprise	7	compute	2	conceive	10
concentrate	4	concept	1	conclude	2
concurrent	9	conduct	2	confer	4
confine	9	confirm	7	conflict	5
conform	8	consent	3	consequent	2
considerable	3	consist	1	constant	3
constitute	1	constrain	3	construct	2
consult	5	consume	2	contact	5
contemporary	8	context	1	contract	1
contradict	8	contrary	7	contrast	4
contribute	3	controversy	9	convene	3

converse	9	convert	7	convince	10
cooperate	6	coordinate	3	core	3
corporate	3	correspond	3	couple	7
create	1	credit	2	criteria	3
crucial	8	culture	2	currency	8
cycle	4	data	1	debate	4
decade	7	decline	5	deduce	3
define	1	definite	7	demonstrate	3
denote	8	deny	7	depress	10
derive	1	design	2	despite	4
detect	8	deviate	8	device	9
devote	9	differentiate	7	dimension	4
diminish	9	discrete	5	discriminate	6
displace	8	display	6	dispose	7
distinct	2	distort	9	distribute	1
diverse	6	document	3	domain	6
domestic	4	dominate	3	draft	5
drama	8	duration	9	dynamic	7
economy	1	edit	6	element	2
eliminate	7	emerge	4	emphasis	3
empirical	7	enable	5	encounter	10
energy	5	enforce	5	enhance	6
enormous	10	ensure	3	entity	5
environment	1	equate	2	equip	7
equivalent	5	erode	9	error	4
establish	1	estate	6	estimate	1
ethic	9	ethnic	4	evaluate	2
eventual	8	evident	1	evolve	5
exceed	6	exclude	3	exhibit	8
expand	5	expert	6	explicit	6

exploit	8	export	1	expose	5
external	5	extract	7	facilitate	5
factor	1	feature	2	federal	6
fee	6	file	7	final	2
finance	1	finite	7	flexible	6
fluctuate	8	focus	2	format	9
formula	1	forthcoming	10	foundation	7
found	9	framework	3	function	1
fund	3	fundamental	5	furthermore	6
gender	6	generate	5	generation	5
globe	7	goal	4	grade	7
grant	4	guarantee	7	guideline	8
hence	4	hierarchy	7	highlight	8
hypothesis	4	identical	7	identify	1
ideology	7	ignorance	6	illustrate	3
image	5	immigrate	3	impact	2
implement	4	implicate	4	implicit	8
imply	3	impose	4	incentive	6
incidence	6	incline	10	income	1
incorporate	6	index	6	indicate	1
individual	1	induce	8	inevitable	8
infer	7	infrastructure	8	inherent	9
inhibit	6	initial	3	initiate	6
injure	2	innovate	7	input	6
insert	7	insight	9	inspect	8
instance	3	institute	2	instruct	6
integral	9	integrate	4	integrity	10
intelligence	6	intense	8	interact	3
intermediate	9	internal	4	interpret	1
interval	6	intervene	7	intrinsic	10

invest	2	investigate	4	invoke	10
involve	1	isolate	7	issue	1
item	2	job	4	journal	2
justify	3	label	4	labour	1
layer	3	lecture	6	legal	1
legislate	1	levy	10	liberal	5
licence	5	likewise	10	link	3
locate	3	logic	5	maintain	2
major	1	manipulate	8	manual	9
margin	5	mature	9	maximise	3
mechanism	4	media	7	mediate	9
medical	5	medium	9	mental	5
method	1	migrate	6	military	9
minimal	9	minimise	8	minimum	6
ministry	6	minor	3	mode	7
modify	5	monitor	5	motive	6
mutual	9	negate	3	network	5
neutral	6	nevertheless	6	nonetheless	10
norm	9	normal	2	notion	5
notwithstanding	10	nuclear	8	objective	5
obtain	2	obvious	4	occupy	4
occur	1	odd	10	offset	8
ongoing	10	option	4	orient	5
outcome	3	output	4	overall	4
overlap	9	overseas	6	panel	10
paradigm	7	paragraph	8	parallel	4
parameter	4	participate	2	partner	3
passive	9	perceive	2	percent	1
period	1	persist	10	perspective	5
phase	4	phenomenon	7	philosophy	3

physical	3	plus	8	policy	1
portion	9	pose	10	positive	2
potential	2	practitioner	8	precede	6
precise	5	predict	4	predominant	8
preliminary	9	presume	6	previous	2
primary	2	prime	5	principal	4
principle	1	prior	4	priority	7
proceed	1	process	1	professional	4
prohibit	7	project	4	promote	4
proportion	3	prospect	8	protocol	9
psychology	5	publication	7	publish	3
purchase	2	pursue	5	qualitative	9
quote	7	radical	8	random	8
range	2	ratio	5	rational	6
react	3	recover	6	refine	9
regime	4	region	2	register	3
regulate	2	reinforce	8	reject	5
relax	9	release	7	relevant	2
reluctance	10	rely	3	remove	3
require	1	research	1	reside	2
resolve	4	resource	2	respond	1
restore	8	restrain	9	restrict	2
retain	4	reveal	6	revenue	5
reverse	7	revise	8	revolution	9
rigid	9	role	1	route	9
scenario	9	schedule	8	scheme	3
scope	6	section	1	sector	1
secure	2	seek	2	select	2
sequence	3	series	4	sex	3
shift	3	significant	1	similar	1

simulate	7	site	2	so-called	10
sole	7	somewhat	7	source	1
specific	1	specify	3	sphere	9
stable	5	statistic	4	status	4
straightforward	10	strategy	2	stress	4
structure	1	style	5	submit	7
subordinate	9	subsequent	4	subsidy	6
substitute	5	successor	7	sufficient	3
sum	4	summary	4	supplement	9
survey	2	survive	7	suspend	9
sustain	5	symbol	5	tape	6
target	5	task	3	team	9
technical	3	technique	3	technology	3
temporary	9	tense	8	terminate	8
text	2	theme	8	theory	1
thereby	8	thesis	7	topic	7
trace	6	tradition	2	transfer	2
transform	6	transit	5	transmit	7
transport	6	trend	5	trigger	9
ultimate	7	undergo	10	underlie	6
undertake	4	uniform	8	unify	9
unique	7	utilise	6	valid	3
vary	1	vehicle	8	version	5
via	8	violate	9	virtual	8
visible	7	vision	9	visual	8
volume	3	voluntary	7	welfare	5
whereas	5	whereby	10	widespread	8